

The Canal Zone

Philatelist



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Whole No. 176

Plate Varieties on Plate Numbers in Plate Blocks by Richard D. Bates, Jr.

Plate varieties that may be found on plate blocks play a different role than those on individual stamps on panes. That is because they can be found by the collector simply by finding the relevant plate block, rather than needing the intense squinting of the fly-specker going through thousands of individual copies or multiples of the stamp. Moreover, plate blocks have tended to be saved, so there is a much higher likelihood of finding an example than those on individual stamps.

Plate varieties on plate blocks can be divided into two subgroups: 1) those that appear on one of the stamps in the plate block, or 2) those that occur in the selvage, including on or near the plate number itself.

As an example of the latter, consider the plate block of six (PB6) of Canal Zone No. 93 illustrated in Fig. 1a. In Fig. 1b the plate number 14436 in this block can be seen in the expanded view to be distinctly doubled.





Fig.1b

Fig.1a

Fig. 1a Bottom plate block of 6 of Scott No. 93; Fig. 1b Expanded view of the block in Fig. 1a showing double transfer in plate number

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Stefan S. Bunyitay, a Candidate for the "Mysterious S.B." by Dickson Preston

I was delighted to read Robert J. Karrer's article, "The Mysterious S.B. Cachets on 25th Anniversary Covers," in the 3rd Q *CZP* of this year. (*CZP* 46:25) As the result of a chance purchase in a dealer's box, I am able to identify the maker of this 1939 cachet with fair certainty as Stefan S. Bunyitay.

The article I bought was the original artist's drawing for the cachet shown in Fig. 1. Done in India ink over a pencil sketch, the circular drawing measures centimeters in diameter at the outer edge. It is identical in design to the lithographed cachet found on the 25th Anniversary FDCs. including idiosyncrasies in execution. For example, on both the drawing and the cachet, the "O" in "ZONE" is taller than either the "Z" or the "N" around it and the top of



Fig. 1 Original drawing of the S. B. FDC cachet for the 25th Anniversary Series

the "O" touches the inner circle line above it. So it would appear that the artist used this drawing to create the lithographic transfer for his cachet.

A Hungarian name, "Bunyitay," is written in pencil in the upper-right corner of the sheet on which the drawing was made (Fig. 2). Whether this is the signature of the

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Articles and information for publication should be sent to the Editor. Scans are prefered for figures of stamps or covers; however enlarged high quality photocopies are sometimes acceptable. Illustrations must show clearly against black backgrounds. If you need help, write or EMAIL the Editor. The author must advise the Editor if the article has been published or is being considered for publication elsewhere.

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Commonly used abbrevations

BEP = Bureau of Engraving & Printing

CZ Stamps = Canal Zone Stamps, by Gilbert N. Plass, Geoffrey Brewster, and Richard H. Salz, The Canal Zone Study Group, 1986

CZP = The Canal Zone Philatelist

 $\label{eq:entropy} \textit{Entwistle} = \textit{The Postal Markings of the Canal Zone, 2nd Edition}, \\ \text{by Lawson P. Enwistle, The Canal Zone Study Group, 1992}$

French = Encyclopedia of Plate Varieties on U.S. Bureau-Printed Postage Stamps, by Loran C. French, Bureau Issues Association, 1979

Scott = Scott's Specialized Catalogue of U.S. Stamps, current edition.

ABNCo = American Bank Note Company

NPM = National Postal Museum of the Smithsonian Institution

Journal citations are *Journal Name*, **Volume No.**, Pages. Anything without a byline is written by the Editor.

WANTED

#12 Stages I, II, III, & IV CZSG Nos. 12.Aa, 12.Ab, 12.Ba, 12.Bb, 12.C, 12.D, 12.Ea, & 12.Eb

#13 Stages II & III CZSG Nos. 13.B, 13.C, & 13.D

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Geoffrey Brewster

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\$120,000 Allocated for WW I Censorship in the Canal Zone by David Zemer

In the article in *CZP* **45**:4, "Mail Related to Enemy Aliens Interned in the Canal Zone and Panama during World War I," references were made to the censorship program but we did not have any documentation on how much it would cost or how it would be funded. In July 2010, an *Executive Order*, dated October 3, 1918, by President Wilson was sold on eBay. In it President Wilson specifically allocated \$120,000 for censorship of the mails in the Canal Zone for the fiscal year starting July 1, 1918. A copy of the Order is shown below.

Executive Order

Under authority conferred by "An Act authorizing the President to coordinate or consolidate executive agencies, and offices, and for other purposes, in the interest of economy and the more efficient concentration of the Government," approved May 20, 1918, it is hereby directed that one hundred and twenty thousand dollars (\$120,000) be transferred from the appropriation of \$1,620,000, for the Censorship of Foreign Mails under the Post Office Department for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1919, and allotted to the Secretary of War for the conduct of the censorship of the mails in the Panama Canal Zone during said fiscal year.

This sum will be deducted from the appropriations made for the Post Office Department for the current fiscal year and charged to the War Department.

WOODROW WILSON

THE WHITE HOUSE, 3 October. 1918

Changes in the 2009 Canal Zone Postal Stationery Catalog by Irwin Gibbs, Postal Stationery Editor

The Canal Zone Postal Stationery Catalog is a work in progress. We have been lucky to have the advice of CZSG members regarding many new and corrected items.

The *Postal Stationery Catalog* has been computerized by the UPSS and all changes have been updated on the system. We hope members will continue to forward any corrections and additions to the editor for inclusion. A listing of recently updated items is given below:

UPSS No.	<u>Item</u>	Earliest Reported Dates
5c	U5 Partial Imprint on Back	
10	U9	10/7/24
10c	10c Corozal Corner Card	4/20/28
10c	10c Gatun Corner Card	11/23/27
10c	10c Pedro Miguel Corner Card	1/11/27
11c	Fort Sherman Corner Card	12/17/25
11c	Gatun Corner Card	9/21/25
11c	Pedro Miguel Corner Card	2/20/26
12b	Knife P3A	5/2/32
12d	France Field Corner Card	6/2/27
31	U12	5/2/33
57	U17	8/24/68
75	U19	12/4/70
A13	UC4	8/20/62
A23a	2c surcharge albino on A21	
A25A	Surcharge is 124585	
A12b	Print order is F6783	
S30	ERP is 2/11/74	
S30a	ERP is 2/11/74	

Plate Varieties on Plate Numbers in Plate Blocks continued from page 37

On such an example, distinguishing between the two possible ways it could have arisen is important. It could be a plate variety, meaning the cause was present when the plate was made, in which case it would occur on all examples of the stamp from that position printed with that plate, and also on the proof for that plate prepared to print that stamp. An intermediate cause could be a plate variety that arose through damage to the plate at some time during the use of the plate. In that case it would not occur on the plate proof, but would occur on multiple copies of the printed stamps, i.e., all those printed after the damage occurred, but not on those printed prior to that.

The other possibility is that it could be a printing variety, such as caused by a double impression. Then all stamps and the plate number would show the doubled image. But none of the stamps in the PB6 shows any similar doubling, ruling out that this could be a printing variety. The origin being a plate variety is confirmed by examining the portion of the plate proof for this PB6 which is from the LR pane, illustrated in Fig. 2. Surprisingly, as it is visible to the naked eye, this plate variety is not listed in Encyclopedia of Plate Varieties on U.S. Bureau-Printed Postage Stamps by Loran C. French. This double transfer (DT) in the plate number should exist on both CZ Nos. 79 and 93 (1st printing), as plate 14436 was used for both, as well as on U.S. No. 569.



Fig. 2 Expanded view of BR plate number of U.S. Scott No. 569, plate 14436

One additional extraneous marking on a U.S. stamp overprinted for Canal Zone exists on Scott No. 115, which is a sharp A overprint on U.S. 720, the 3c rotary press stamp. It is shown in Fig. 3, listed in *French* as a gash through the 3 of the plate number, is in the same color as the stamp, and occurs in the plate number of the UL PB4



Fig. 3 UL PB4 Positions UL 1 and 2 from No. 115 plate number 20932 showing the gash in the 3 and a minor double transfer in "... AGE" on pos. 2

of plate 20932 adjacent to pos. UL1. I have seen this gash on many UL 20932 plate blocks, and I have seen no copies without this mark. However, examination of the plate proof for this plate of U.S. No. 720 shows no evidence of this gash, as shown in Fig. 4. Thus whatever caused this



Fig. 4 Pos. 1 and 2 of the plate proof for UL 20932 showing the absence of the gash seen in plate blocks of No. 115 (the shadow at UL is from a paper bend on the proof).

mark arose after the plate was made, and after the plate proof was prepared, either prior to use of the plate on the press or during the press run. It was probably caused by damage to the plate or the presence of some extraneous material on the plate, though if extraneous material, it must have persisted for some time.

French also lists a minor double transfer, also in the UL PB4 of the same plate, in and above the top edge of "...AGE" of POSTAGE of Pos. UL2. Though this is hard to detect on the stamps even with magnification in the examples I have examined, it can be seen in the plate proof, as is shown in Fig. 5.

The author thanks the National Postal Museum for facilitating the access to the plate proofs used in this project, and to Jim O'Donnell for providing the scans used.





Fig. 5 Expanded view of part of pos.2 of UL 20932 plate proof (left) and drawing from *French* (right) showing minor double transfer at the top of the letters "AGE" and to the right of them

U.S. POSSESSIONS

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Who Had the Stamp? Early Recognition that Counterfeit Nos. 1-3 were Being Made by Richard D. Bates, Jr. and David Zemer

Much of the earliest reporting in the philatelic press about the first series came from Dr. J.C. Perry. He also was one of the early suppliers of Canal Zone stamps to dealers in the U.S., especially to H.F. Colman in Washington, D.C.

Following sketchy reports that provisional stamps had been issued by the C. Z. Government, a fuller report by Perry appeared in *Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News* on page 247 of the July 30, 1904 issue, only slightly more than a month after the first Canal Zone stamps were issued. Perry reported the establishment of a postal service in the Zone on June 24, 1904, with post offices established in 10 towns: Ancon, Culebra, Matachin, San Pablo (actually established a week later than the others), Gorgona, Empire, La Boca, Bohio, Gatun, and Cristobal.

In his article Perry states, "The provisional first series stamps were placed on sale on June 24th and discontinued on July 13th, 1904, as the U.S. stamps [overprinted Canal Zone - Scott Nos. 4-8] were received on the later date."

Yet even on this early date, it was believed that counterfeits existed, as Perry's article stated, "I wish to warn dealers and collectors against counterfeits. If the stamps have already been offered in quantity and sheets they are counterfeits because I know positively they have not been sold in this manner." Later Perry asserted that remainders of Nos. 1-3 were not available to the public once the overprinted U.S. stamps arrived from Washington, D. C., and were placed on sale.

Ads like that from J. M. Bartels in Fig.1 for the new Canal Zone stamps began to appear shortly after the provisional first series was issued. By October, ads began to include an implied warning about fakes and assurance that stamps being sold by the dealers placing the ads were guaranteed to be genuine.

An early ad by Colman said the stamps being offered are guaranteed genuine and have his guarantee mark on them (More on this later!).

Shortly thereafter, the ads themselves began to warn of counterfeits being offered for sale.

There are two stories about the early appearance of fakes. One is a recounting in 1933 by J. Murray Bartels of events that took place in Boston, presumably in late

summer 1904. Much of the story, entitled "Canal Zone First Issue" by Bartels and published in *Stamps*, November 18, 1933, p. 347, is included here, as it serves to depict the ease with which fakes were created.

There was considerable philatelic excitement when it was suddenly announced in July 1904 that a small lot of stamps had been bought by the Canal Zone authorities from the then recently formed Republic of Panama and handstamped CANAL ZONE in black type slightly bluish.

. . .

Immediately a heavy demand arose for this provisional U. S. Possession issue. The C. Z. offices were overwhelmed with orders and would sell only ten sets to any one purchaser. Accordingly among others the writer had most of his remittance returned with the allotted 10 sets. In less than two weeks the supply was exhausted. Local speculators secured from Panama's post offices new supplies of current stamps which were naturally from the same stock and printings as the genuine provisionals. These were soon surcharged with a close imitation of the original handstamp which at first deceived the best of the experts.

Two prominent Boston firms purchased 100 cancelled sets for \$300 from a local shoe dealer who had received them directly from a customer in the Zone with the request to sell them to the best advantage and credit his account with the proceeds. The two firms divided the lot and applied their guarantee stamp to the back of each copy. All of these were originally in one unused sheet of each value.

Before selling any however, the overprints were discovered to be forged and returned to the shoe dealer after the guarantee marks had been carefully erased. A full refund was made and the lot returned to the original sender. With considerable amusement, the writer was offered this same lot with the erased initials, the following year, by a dealer while visiting Hamburg. They formed part of a mixed lot with Panama sheets at a greatly reduced price.

There are certain letters in the overprint which vary from the original handstamp and the difference is readily distinguished when the surcharge is fairly distinct, which is unfortunately not always the case. The several dealers who handled the original, lost no time in affixing their guarantee marks to the backs of the originals in their possession and it is safe to state that copies without such guarantee marks are rarely genuine. This applies particularly to the 2c of which only 2500 copies were issued. This value contained many varieties today preserved in the several large specialized collections which can show from 10 to 20 genuine blocks with varieties of the Panama overprint or Canal Zone handstamp. Some time ago a large locally formed Canal Zone collection came into the market containing a lot of fakes of the rare 2c (Scott No. 1)

A major reason for including the Bartel's article is contained in the admonition regarding first series stamps that appeared at the end of the article. Bartels stated:

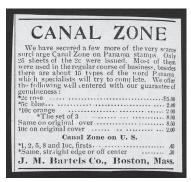


Fig. 1 Ad in *Mekeel's* on 9/24/04 by Bartels



Fig. 2 Ad in *Mekeel's* on 10/08/04 by H. F. Colman



Fig. 3 Rejoined Hussman ad in *Mekeel's* on 11/05/04

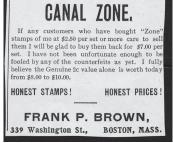


Fig. 4 Ad in *Mekeel's* on 10/15/04 by F. P. Brown

If you examine your first issue and find anyone of the following guarantee marks on the back you can rest assured your stamps are genuine. If none of these marks appear you would do well to have your copies expertized.

The marks are as follows: "J. C. Perry" in ms. who was located in the Zone at that time and rendered valuable services to dealers and collectors; "H. F. C." in monogram of H. F. Colman, Washington; "M. & Co." in red for J. C. Morgenthau & Co., New York; "N. E. Co." in monogram for the New England Stamp Co., Boston; and monogram "J. M. B." for the writer. Fakes have also been seen on original cover with genuine cancellations, likewise copies cancelled at EMPIRE in black are known, forged. The most common fakes are cancelled in magenta or purple at Ancon, the stamps generally show seven bars with CANAL and ZONE while the date stamp appears on the cover.

It will be noted from the above that this first Canal Zone is one which requires the most careful examination and should only be accepted with an unquestioned guarantee. It is evident that genuine copies of No. 1 are well worth close to catalog, so beware of any which are offered at customary discounts, especially when without the above mentioned guarantee marks.

Bartels' advice is as sound today as it was in 1933. A stamp or cover with Perry's signature guarantee, to our knowledge, always has turned out to be good. The same thing applies to those with the distinctive appearance of the Colman initials, a joined H and F inside a larger C. To our knowledge, an item with the HFC guarantee has invariably turned out to be good. The Bartels signature is nearly as authoritative, though we believe there was one item submitted for expertization that had the Bartels signature that received a "no good" opinion. It is possible the guarantee signature as well as the overprint were fake. We know less about the New England Stamp Co. and Morgenthau marks.

To aid the reader, examples of several of these guarantee marks are shown below.

In addition to the early discovery of counterfeit first series stamps described by Bartels in 1933, there was a seizure of stamps and investigation of possible counterfeits in the U.S. in 1904. There is a description of some of these activities in CZ Stamps on pages 20-There are additional details in the George Brett archives at the Smithsonian's National Postal Museum in transcribed correspondence between Postal Inspectors Lawrence Letherman, W. S. Mayer, and others but suffice it to say that the examples seized were easily recognized as different because "the distinction between the genuine and the counterfeit is in the size and form of the type used in printing the words 'CANAL ZONE,' which, at a glance, can be seen are of an entirely different character." In a follow-up letter dated January 14, 1905, Director of Posts Tom Cooke pointed out "it would certainly be an easy thing for anyone to purchase Panama stamps [which were available at the time in post offices in Panama] and a rubber stamp and surcharge them as his fancy would determine" and that "there is no doubt that large numbers



J. M. Bartes

Fig. 5 J. C. Perry signature as guarantee mark

Fig. 6 J. M. Bartels signature as guarantee mark



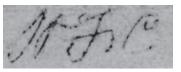


Fig. 7 Guarantee mark of H.F. Colman and (seldom seen) signed initials

of these stamps have been surcharged in addition to those originally purchased by the Zone government, and by a different rubber stamp."

Distressing to collectors today is the view of postal authorities of the time that, if the counterfeits were not made to defraud the postal service, they are not of particular concern. By the act of demonetizing the first series stamps in late July 1904 after the arrival of the overprinted U.S. stamps, these first series stamps were no longer valid for postage, and their being counterfeited was not of concern to the U.S. or Canal Zone postal authorities.

Access to the Smithsonian library at the National Postal Museum and to the Brett archives at the NPM contributed to the preparation of this article.

Air Mail Booklets by Irwin Gibbs

In addition to the comments by Gil Plass about the existence of handmade booklet panes of the Canal Zone air mail stamp C22 that appeared in the *CZP* in 1972 (*CZP* 23:10) and also in *CZ Stamps* on page 335 and discussed in the last issue of the *CZP* (46:26), I was reminded that the auction catalog for the Plass sale in 1993 included as lot 716 an example of a pane of 6. The lot description was as follows:

C22 var., 6c brown, handmade booklet pane of six, contained in an unexploded booklet of one pane between two interleaves, the covers are yellow stock, the front cover obtained from 37c booklets by simply flipping it, both are stamped on the blank outsides "Via Air Mail" in violet, original gum, never hinged, natural gum creases, fine; the Postmaster at Cristobal authorized the manufacture of these booklets on May 1, 1955; however the procedure proved too time-consuming, and the practice discontinued after a few days; the front cover bears pencil notation "... made by Clerk Sherry Cristobal Postoffice May 5, 1955 ..."

Having the ex-Brett booklet in hand plus the description of the booklet from the Plass sale provides further clarity regarding the origin of these booklets. Whether this answers the question whether these should be considered anything more than curiosities remains unclear.

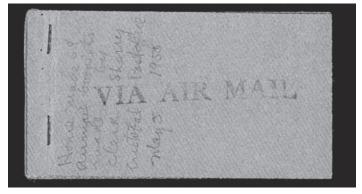


Fig. 1 The cover of the Plass booklet

ERU and LRU of Censor Handstamps Used on WWII Official Business Mail -An Update By Paul Ammons

There are a few updates to report on the article published in the 1st Q 2010 CZP (CZP 46: 6-7).

Nine examples of Broderick & Mayo (B&M) catalog number S2.9 censor handstamp have now been reported. Five of these are Navy Department Official Business mail from Navy Communication stations or offices in Balboa or Coco Solo to the Navy Department, Washington, D.C. Another two are Executive Department Official Money Order Business (MOB) mail to Costa Rica.

The LRU of the first Canal Zone civil censor hand stamp used solely on Official Business mail is now February 4, 1942. One of the two reported covers cancelled on this date is illustrated in Fig. 1.



Fig. 1 New LRU of B&M S2.9 censor handstamp

The cover illustrated in Fig. 2 moves the ERU of B&M C2.1 earlier to February 13, 1942. This drops the usage of B&M S2.9 to no more than two weeks, January 31, 1942 - February 12, 1942, making it possibly the scarcest Canal Zone civil censor hand stamp.



Fig. 2 New ERU of B&M C2.1 censor handstamp

The LRU for B&M C2.1 has been moved later by two days to July 29, 1942 and is illustrated in Fig. 3.

It is now believed that B&M C2.1 was in use for just over twenty-three weeks, about five and a half months, when it was replaced by the third censor handstamp.

The LRU for B&M C2.2, the third Canal Zone civil censor handstamp used solely on Official Business mail has been moved later by 15 days to October 17, 1942 and is illustrated in Fig. 4.

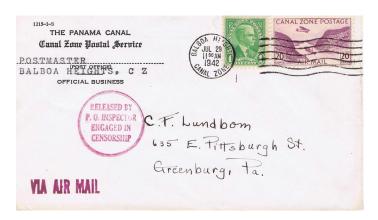


Fig. 3 New LRU of B&M C2.1 censor handstamp



Fig. 4 New LRU of B&M C2.2 censor handstamp

It is now believed that B&M C2.2 was in use for only eleven weeks, about two and a half months, when it was replaced by the fourth Canal Zone handstamp only used on Official Business mail. The ERU for the generic 'OFFICIAL MAIL' handstamp is now sometime between October 23 and 29, 1942, and is illustrated in Fig. 5. Due to water damage to the correspondence, a more precise date cannot be determined at this time.



Fig. 5 New ERU of 'OFFICIAL MAIL' censor handstamp

For Sale CANAL ZONE SPECIMENS Irwin Gibbs

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Study Group News

NAPEX 2010

NAPEX 2010 was held at the Tysons Corner Hilton, just outside Washington, DC. The CZSG meeting on Saturday, June 5th, was attended by nine Canal Zone collectors. It was noted that COPAPHIL was meeting at the same show, and the common interests of many members were noted. Following the customary introductions, it was observed that collecting interests of CZSG members are such that there could be 20 members at such a meeting, and it is possible that no two of them would collect the same kinds of Canal Zone material.

Dick Bates commented about the recent loss of long-time CZSG member George Stilwell, a major force in the Canal Zone Study Group, serving as President, recruiting new members, and initiating and running its Mail Sales. His loss decreases the number of experienced CZ collectors to assist in expertizing.

Mike Demski discussed the role the CZSG will play next Spring as a sponsoring society at NOJEX 2011, and encouraged members to consider preparing an exhibit representing their collecting interests.

An exhibit prepared by Jerry Craig with the title, "Panama Canal Construction Era Picture Post Cards," received a gold medal. *The Canal Zone Philatelist (Vol. 45)* received a silver medal.

The availability of the finding guide for the George Brett archives at the National Postal Museum in Washington, DC, was noted, and Dick Bates offered to help members locate material of interest to them in these archives.

The remaining discussion involved 1) an item submitted to APS, which, if it is confirmed as genuine (it was later issued a certificate as genuine), would be the third complete booklet of Scott No. 102a, 2) problems encountered with an eBay dealer who seems to be unable to deliver items listed on eBay that had already been paid for by CZSG members, and 3) a description by Wayne Worthington of his project to list stamp dealers/companies who had offices in the Zone. He is organizing them in three general categories: formal dealers with a company name, collectors/exchangers who used their own name (not a company) but who exchanged world wide, and special cover makers who created FDCs and FFCs. Participants suggested he consider adding an "other" category to cover folks like Dr. J. C. Perry who prepared covers and supplied varieties of early Canal Zone stamps.



NAPEX 2010 CZSG meeting attendees: Dick Bates, Jerry Craig, Wayne Worthington, Ed Price, Jim Cross, Eliot Coleman, Dick Larkin, Mike Demski, Allan Harris

StampShow 2010

The APS StampShow 2010 was held at the Convention Center in Richmond, VA. Though set up on relatively short notice, the CZSG meeting on Saturday, August 14, was attended by 11 Canal Zone collectors, plus guest Hilda Bailey.



Attendees at the CZSG meeting at StampShow 2010: Back row – Bob Reeves, Ed Fisher, Michael Barie, Gary Weiss, Tom Roseme, Dick Larkin, Parker Bailey Front row - Dick Bates, Dan Ring, Dickson Preston, Dick Colberg

The recent passing of dealer and *CZP* advertiser Bill Conroy of Connecticut was noted. The need was discussed for the CZSG to have volunteers for two positions, Secretary and Mail Sale Manager. The plans for the CZSG to be a featured guest society at NOJEX 2011 in northern New Jersey in May 2011 was summarized, and members were encouraged to consider preparing an exhibit for the show.

The Editor of the *CZP* discussed recent changes in format, such as sticking to a two-column format rather than a mix of two and three columns on each page, moving the CZSG news and business to pages toward the end of each issue to give more emphasis to articles and featured items, and to emphasize items related to stamps and postal history, as well as items of historical interest. The ideas exchanged led to the suggestion that the *CZP* should include items to appeal to beginners as well as the more specialized items generally included. Gary Weiss led a discussion about problems with major auction houses and their practice, somewhat new, of not being willing to break down material into smaller lots, as well as summarizing telephone bidding and buying over the internet through eBay and at auctions. This led to some talk about ways to go about selling stamps.

A brief presentation was made about recent finds of plate varieties including a summary of the holdings of the National Postal Museum and an offer by the Editor to try to assist members whose projects might be aided by items the Museum has.

Secretary's Report John C. Smith

408 Redwood Ln.• Schaumburg, IL 60193-2748 email: czarrowjcs@aol.com

TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

As of November 15, 2010, our membership stands at 577 members.

The 2011 dues notices have been mailed and you should have received your dues envelopes before you read this. So please help your secretary by mailing in your dues as early as possible, along with any address change. You may have noticed a place to put your CZSG membership number on this year's dues envelope. Entering your CZSG number there would help me update the computer file. Your number is on the address label to the right of your name. To save time and trouble you may consider paying your dues for two years or more in advance.

Your CZSG officers wish you all a joyous Holiday Season and a fantastic New Year!

	New Members
2633	Roland J. Sandy, MI
2634	Suzanne F. Jacob, PA
	Address Changes
0161	William R. Kuttner, MD
0220	Walter T. Merkel, NJ
0278	Floyd C. Snelson, NM
0340	Eileen T. Petersen, OH
1654	L. Dann Mayo, Jr., MS
1862	Nicholas Zevos, GA
2311	Stan Polchinski, NY

CZSG National Meeting at NOJEX 2011

The CZSG will be holding a National Meeting at the 2011 NOJEX Show to be held May 27-29, 2011 at the Meadowlands Crowne Plaza in Secaucus, NJ. As a featured guest society, we will also be sponsoring CZSG awards for competitive exhibits of Canal Zone material. These special awards are in addition to the usual Show awards, including the Grand Award, which will be eligible to compete for the APS Champion of Champions Award. A competitive exhibit must consist of at least 4, but no more than 10, frames. In addition, NOJEX has a separate, single frame competition, which can be attractive to novice exhibitors looking to "get their feet wet." The CZSG Metro Chapter, which is the coordinating group with NOJEX, hopes that many members of the CZSG will consider submitting an exhibit, and that the range of exhibits will illustrate the diversity of CZ collecting. The prospectus for exhibitors is available from NOJEX on their website: www.nojex.org or can be obtained from Michael Demski, kearney511@aol.com or George Campbell, campgs@optonline.net. Additional information on the show can be found on the NOJEX web site.

President's Report David Zemer P.O. Box 654 Skoeyen NO-0214 Oslo, Norway sosahill@hotmail.com

New Secretary Appointed

The Executive Committee has unanimously accepted Mike Drabik's offer to serve out the second year of John Smith's term. (Mike Drabik, PO Box 381, Bolton, MA 01740)

Mike is 50 years old and lives in the Boston area where he is the Eastern Regional Sales Manager of a German company that manufactures digital microscope cameras. Like many of us Mike started collecting stamps as a boy and included the stamp collecting merit badge in the required number of badges needed to become an Eagle Scout. He originally collected U.S. stamps but started gravitating towards Canal Zone stamps a few years ago. One reason that he became fascinated with Canal Zone stamps is due to the historical aspect of the Canal Zone. At the moment Mike specializes in the Golden/50th Anniversary Air Mail Issue, Scott numbers C36 – C41, and is acquiring more commercial usage covers with the higher values for a future exhibit.

Larkin Canal Zone Booklet Exhibit Now Online

Dick Larkin's exhibit of Canal Zone booklet stamps has been uploaded to our website and available to everyone with internet access.

It is by far the finest collection ever formed of these stamps and should increase interest in this important area of Canal Zone philately. It provides a colorful display which, together with the *CZ Stamps* chapter on booklet stamps and the many articles on booklet stamps in our *Philatelist*, provides the philatelist with the knowledge needed to study and collect them.

David Leeds - Awarded Honorary Membership

The Executive Committee has awarded David Leeds Honorary Membership in the Canal Zone Study Group for his lifelong devotion to philately and in particular to Canal Zone stamps and the Canal Zone Study Group. David, member number 083, is one of the founding members of our Group and served at two of our most demanding positions: Editor of the *CZP* and Manager of a Mail Sale. In addition he is a Gold Medal exhibitor, APS judge, and frequent contributor to many philatelic publications.

David was born in the Canal Zone in 1917. His father was a holder of a Roosevelt Medal, number 2626 with two bars, and the founder of the Gatun Stamp Company. His mother helped with the stamp business and was the discoverer of one of philately's greatest gems, Canal Zone Scott number 40a: the head of the 2 cent Cordova in the 5 cent frame. David tells stories of hawking packets of stamps to passengers on the PRR train as it went through Gatun. With this heritage it was no accident that David began collecting Canal Zone stamps while still in grade school and was avid in promoting them to the present.

David is only the 6th member awarded this well-deserved honor; the previous recipients are George Brett, Col. James T. De Voss, Gilbert Plass, Edward Conger, and Alfred R. Bew.

Candidate for the "Mysterious S.B."

continued from page 37

artist or a note that was added later is unknown. In any case the first letter "B" corresponds to the initials "S.B." in the cachet. Bunyitay is not a common name, and I found no Bunyitay on Google with the first initial "S." An Art History database revealed that one Stefan S. von Bunyitay, born 1895, was the artist on two architectural drawings that appeared in the 1930s magazine California Arts and Architecture (Ref. 1). The two drawings were "University Stanford Union; Cloister in Portugal," in the October, 1931 issue, and "Siesta Hour, Old Mexico; Mission Dolores in San Francisco; Mission at San Buenaventura," in the February, 1932 issue. Bunyitay must not have been a prominent figure in the art world, since I found no reference to him in other Art History sources, including those specific to California (Ref. 2). But at least the drawings in California Arts and Architecture establish that there was an artist named Stefan S. Bunyitay in the U.S. in the 1930s.

In addition, the catalog of Hungarian-Americans in the Vasvary Collection in the Somogyi Library in Szeged, Hungary, lists a one-page file on Stefan S. Bunyitay (Ref. 3). This person is not listed in the U.S. Census for 1930 (the Census for 1940 will not be available until 2018), and he is not in the U.S. Social Security Administration "Death List," so he either never registered with the S.S.A., or he left the United States before he died. I could not find any reference connecting him with the Canal Zone, but perhaps some other researcher with a better command of Canal Zone archives than I have can locate something, given the artist's name as a starting point.

As far as I know, the 25th Anniversary cachet was this artist's only entry into the FDC arena. The crude adaptation of his existing cachet for the 1939 overprints, in which the word "Anniversary" is simply whited out by hand, as shown in Robert Karrer's Fig. 5, supports this idea. Also, none of the United States FDC Cachet experts I consulted had any record of him.

Because of the paucity of the sources located so far, some uncertainty about the identity of "S.B." remains. However, since Bunyitay is such an uncommon name, and since an S. Bunyitay has been identified as an artist working in America in the 1930's, I feel fairly certain that Stefan S. Bunyitay is the artist who created the 25th Anniversary cachet attributed to the "Mysterious S.B."



Fig. 2 Name written in pencil in the upper-right corner of the sheet with the original drawing. The dot after the "B" is an extraneous spot of dirt.

References

Ref 1. The two references to Bunyitay are on *Art Retrospective*, an on-line version of *Art Index. California Arts and Architecture* was published under that title from 1929 to 1944.

Ref 2. Directory of California Artists, Craftsmen, Designers, and Teachers of Art in the Worldcat Database, for example.

Ref 3. The catalog is on http://puszta.com/eng/hungary/cikk/vasvary_gyujtemeny_szeged. The actual file is not available online.

2009-10 Mail Sale

The CZSG Mail Sale that closed on December 6, 2009 has now concluded, the books are closed, and the results incorporated in the Treasurer's report in the last issue. Of the 850 lots listed in the Sale catalogue, four were withdrawn by the owner or Mail Sale manager, and 99 were returned to the consigner as they received no bids. After subtracting three lots that were returned, the 744 lots that found new homes realized \$60,398, providing \$54,358 to the consigners and \$6040 to the CZSG. Expenses in running the Sale were \$3160, thus the net to the Study Group publication fund was \$2880. An additional \$103 was provided by sales of items donated by a member. Member dues, particularly those at the contributing and sustaining level, and proceeds from the Mail Sales are the primary sources of funding for the CZP, plus the Handbooks produced periodically and distributed without cost to members.

A final summary of the results for this Mail Sale and for the 35 Sales that have preceded it will be shown in an updated table published in a future issue of the *CZP*.

Highlights of the Sale included 23b vertical pair \$1950, 39 on piece with Frijoles cancel \$800, 71c,d in pair \$1650, 92c ZONE CANAL in block of 40 \$3200, 142-5 design sketches signed Meade Bolton \$1850, U.S. C15 on Zeppelin cover to CZ \$1150, Christmas card CS11 \$1050, and UX5s Specimen postal card \$2000.

The CZSG hopes to run the next Sale in 2011, and details on the submission of material will be included in early 2011, though the Study Group is still looking for a volunteer to run the 2011 Sale. Anyone interested should contact David Zemer, CZSG President, at one of the addresses included with the President's report elsewhere in this issue.

Anyone wishing a copy of the prices realized can contact the Mail Sale Manager at PO Box 40583, Palisades Station, Washington, DC 20016-0583, sending a SSAE. Copies of the catalogue plus prices realized can be had for \$3 at the same address. Both catalogue and prices realized are available on the CZSG web site: www.canalzonestudygroup.org.

R. D. Bates, Jr. Mail Sale Manager

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Back to Canal Zone Basics by Richard D. Bates, Jr.

At the recent CZSG meeting at the APS StampShow in Richmond, when comments about *The Canal Zone Philatelist* were solicited from those present, several members present suggested that the *CZP* was great for the specialist, but not always effective in addressing the interests of the less advanced collector. While the usual answer from me as Editor to such a comment is to encourage those who express such an opinion to write something, indicating that I and others are happy to assist to get such a project started, I realize that it may need to be me who gets this one started, or actually, restarted, as many years ago I used to write periodically a column entitled "Back to Basics," later changed to "Back to Canal Zone Basics."

Previous topics covered in this series include gums (*CZP* **25**:24), booklet panes (*CZP* **27**:7), coil stamps (*CZP* **27**:31 and **28**:3), and gutter snipes (*CZP* **34**:26 and **36**:7). Here I am discussing the ways to distinguish rotary press and flat plate stamps that look very much alike, expanding on previous articles (*CZP* **25**:30, **26**:6, and **26**:13). In particular, this article pertains to stamps in the fourth Bureau issue (1922-25) of U.S. stamps that were overprinted CANAL ZONE at the Bureau of Engraving and Printing. These are assigned catalogue numbers 70 - 104, plus 116 by *Scott*. The postage due stamps J12-J20 also fall into this category, though none of these is a rotary press stamp.

Scott Nos. 70-95 are flat plate stamps, with 70-81 characterized by the CANAL ZONE overprint being the flat A variety, while 84-95 have the sharp A version of the overprint. In my series about fake overprints on these stamps (*CZP* 37:42-5), I have described the differences between the flat and sharp A overprints. They are not difficult to distinguish, but one does find them misidentified somewhat regularly in dealer stocks at shows and bourses.

To review, Fig. 1 shows four different examples of the 2c Washington, each with a CANAL ZONE overprint, but each of which has a different Scott number. The two stamps at the left are both flat plate stamps, the leftmost example having the physically smaller letters (2.0 mm high) of the type A overprint with the letters "A" with a flat portion at the top, and the second stamp from the left having the slightly larger letters (2.2 mm high). The two



Fig. 1 Examples of 2c Washington assigned Scott nos. 73, 84, 97, and 101

stamps at the right were both printed on the rotary press. Like the second stamp from the left, both of these have the type B overprint with the sharp points at the top of the letters "A" a distinguishing feature.

There are two relatively easy ways to distinguish rotary and flat press stamps of the same designs. They can be spotted easily on the examples shown in Fig. 2. The right stamp below is the rotary press example, Scott 104. It is slightly taller than the flat plate example at



Fig. 2 Flat plate (No. 87) and rotary press (No. 104) examples of the 10c Monroe stamp

the left, which is a No. 87, as can be seen because the bottoms of the design on the two stamps are aligned, but there is a mismatch at the top. The widths are the same, but the design on rotary press stamps is "stretched out" in the direction of curvature when the plate is curved to fit on the rotary press. You can tell this with the naked eye. A means of measuring the dimensions of the design is not necessary, though of course that also works. If you have two stamps you can distinguish them this way. Note that they do not even have to be of the same design. One of the safest ways to tell is to use a stamp for which the only examples overprinted CANAL ZONE were flat plate stamps. Examples are the ½c, 1½c stamps, or the higher denomination 12c or 15c stamps.

The other method involves the different gauge of the perforations on the rotary press stamps. Flat press stamps are all perf. 11. Neither of the two rotary press stamps at right in Fig. 1 is perf. 11. The one at far right is perf. 11 x 10 ½, while the second one from the right is perf. 10. One can see with the naked eye that the perforations are farther apart on the perf. 10 example. With a little experience, one can spot a perf. 11 x 10 ½ example, though it is also fine to use a perforation gauge, a simple philatelist's tool for identifying the spacing of perforations on stamps. To aid the reader, the two examples in Fig. 2 have been placed close to each other so that the perf tips can be seen to be aligned at the top of the adjacent edges but are misaligned at the bottoms. The perf tips on the stamp at the right are slightly farther apart than those on the stamp at left.

In a future article, I will compare the properties of the different 5c Stevens stamps, Scott Nos. 138, 153, and 164, which present some very interesting varieties for Canal Zone collectors.

The Canal Zone Philatelists for 2003 and 2004 uploaded now

Our webmaster, Tom Brougham, has uploaded the *Philatelist* for the years 2003 and 2004 onto our website. This is in accordance with our policy to provide online searchable back issues published more than five years ago at no charge to philatelists and historians.

Scott 2011 Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps by Jim Crumpacker

The roughly 90 changes in the 2011 Scott basically fall into two categories. First, among auction-driven moves for higher priced items, price gains outnumbered losses about two to one in this group. Second, among the few dozen small moves in lower priced mint stamps, declines outnumbered gains in this department, also by two to one.

The most striking decline was in a common stamp, an OG, NH copy of Scott No. 70. This went from \$3.75 to 20 cents in 2011. At first I thought this must be a typo but the editors adjusted downward other mint stamps in this set and I find myself agreeing with the changes.

An entirely new category has been added on page 369 of the 2011 catalog. It is for "U.S. Registry Exchange Labels (1883-1911)." Cristobal, CZ is one of the 26 offices named. The listings for Cristobal are:

Cat. No.:

FX-CZ1 Printed name (25) \$500.00

FX-CZ2 Handstamped name (7) \$625.00

The numbers in parentheses represent the quantity of documented examples known to the editors. Price is for usage on full cover, of course.

A minor modification in another area is that values for a set are now given for many of the small sets such as Nos. 49-51, 52-54, J4-6, and others whereas such values were not listed previously.

A few of the revisions are shown below; all are for OG, NH/H per normal Scott pricing unless noted. Release of the massive George Brett hoard is believed responsible for the price declines in the lower value mint stamps. The editors obviously paid some attention to eBay results also.

Scott No.	2010	2011
9c, inverted overprint	\$5500.00	\$6000.00
24d, CANAL only	4000.00	5500.00
39e, inverted center	not listed	1000.00
and overprint reading		
down, on cover		
70, hinged	1.50	.20
115c, booklet pane of 6,	175.00	80.00
handmade, perf. margins		
117a, booklet pane of 6, NH	60.00	20.00

Scott No.	2010	2011
C26	4.50	6.00
O3, used (CTO)	32.50	25.00
UXC2, mint entire	10.00	8.00

The editors and staff at the *Scott Catalogue* did a very good and detailed job this year.

Auctions by Jim Crumpacker

The auction of the Richard H. Salz collection was the outstanding philatelic event of the third quarter, July 1-Sept. 30, 2010. The report on that sale was presented in the previous *CZP*. The rest of the quarterly offerings amounted to tag ends but are nonetheless worthy of this report.

The first dollar value shown below is the total of hammer price plus commission. The other price, in parentheses, is the catalog value from the *2010 Scott Catalogue*.

1, OG, (sl. offset), NH, F-VF CZSG 1.4 both PANAMAs close together \$460 (\$650) Harmer-Schau

13c, PANAMA overprint double, OG, HR, barely F in pair with normal \$334 (\$671) M. Bennett Int'l

15, lt. dist. OG, H, almost VF \$1208 (\$2750) M. Bennett Int'l

15, OG, H, F-VF \$1495 (\$2750) Harmer-Schau

15 var. PANAMAs 15mm long, OG, H, VF \$1438 (\$2900) M. Bennett Int'l

47, OG, H, F \$1955 (\$3250) M. Bennett Int'l

67, OG, H, VF for this \$460 (\$500) Harmer-Schau

91c, ZONE CANAL, OG, NH, barely F \$199 (\$300) RegencySuperior

CO14a, overprint inverted, OG, H, CTO as always, F \$1495 (\$2750) Cherrystone

UF1a (UPSS R4), mint entire, VF \$978 (\$1300) M. Bennett Int'l

The names and addresses of the firms offering these lots are given below:

Matthew Bennett International 8096 Edwin Raynor Blvd. Baltimore, MD 21122

Cherrystone Philatelic Auctioneers 119 W. 57th St.

New York, NY 10019

Harmer-Schau Auction Galleries, Inc. 1333 N. McDowell Blvd., Suite B Petaluma, CA 94954

The CZSG Board of Directors expresses its appreciation to Peter Copeskey for handling mailing operations of the CZSG in Tucson, AZ as reflected in the following "Statement of Ownership."

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~ Our 20th Year ~

CZSG Recognition of John Smith's Service

At the CZSG meeting at Chicagopex in November, 2010, the Canal Zone Study Group recognized the special role played by John C. Smith of Schaumberg, IL for 24 years as Secretary of the Study Group. This largely behind the scenes role has been filled by only two members since the CZSG was reorganized in 1968: Al Bew, who was Secretary from 1967 to 1986, and John Smith who served from 1986 until the end of this year. John had previously been awarded the Al Bew Service medal in 1997 for his distinguished service.

In recognition of the appreciation of the CZSG Board of Directors on behalf of the membership, Gary Weiss presented John with a special memento, a tool check used by a worker on the Canal during construction days, in a presentation box. A description of tool checks and their use can be found on David S. Plowman's website: http://www.coins-of-panama.com/checks.html.

John's interest in Canal Zone was piqued during the time he spent there while stationed at Ft. Kobbe and Howard AFB beginning in 1966. He and his wife recalled the Spartan conditions endured during their early days there and while living in Panama City.

His collecting is focused on covers, including First Days. His interests have led to several articles published in the *CZP*, and many of his covers have been illustrated as well. In addition to stamps, John has an extensive collection of Native American artifacts from the mid-Western area.



Fig. 1 John Smith with medal presented by Gary Weiss at right and Dick Bates at left

Show Schedule - 2011 and beyond

Listed below are plans for future meetings at major shows. Please note that these are tentative plans for meetings, as the exact date and time of any CZSG meeting is usually determined by the show organizers close to the beginning of the show. Thus these are still subject to confirmation, and the website or other announcement of the show schedule should be consulted for details.

Upcoming CZSG Meetings

StampShowCharleston, SCSat, Feb 18, 2011WESTPEXSan Francisco, CASat, Apr 30, 2011

As a Guest/Sponsoring Society

NOJEX Secaucus, NJ May 27-29, 2011 WESTPEX San Francisco, CA April 2014

Variety on Canal Zone Scott No. 17

A scan of the BR corner of a pane of No. 17 with the bottom bar partly missing from pos. 99 and entirely missing from pos. 100 has been provided by Elliot Coleman. Position 100 is also partly missing most of the "2 cts," and the final A of the right PANAMA. The "s." of cts. is actually missing entirely. There is no evidence of a foldover on the stamps but Elliot suspects that since the selvage is missing, it may have been folded over to cause this interesting error.



Block on No. 17 with part of overprint missing at BR



CZ #26, 10c Violet and Black, used to pay Postage Due

Rare Postage Due Cover. Large well centered bottom left single with corner selvage, paying the 10c postage due on a 11 Feb 1907 cover from Barbados, with 3 black circular receivers on the back, Cristobal 18 Feb 1907, Pedro Miguel? Feb 1907, and Pedro Miguel 6 April 1907. Straight line violet "Postage due 10 cent" and black T in Heart postage due markings. One of the treasures of Canal Zone Postage Due Philately. \$2700.

I have loaded all of the First Issue Covers from the recent Dick Salz Shreve sale large lots onto my new website, DelParker.com, and am in the process of loading most of the remaining covers and material. I was able to purchase the following lots with the intention of breaking them up and offering them individually or intact:

All of the Postage Due Covers The Ship or Paquetboat Covers The Cablegram Covers Group of 6 The Radio Cards Group of 20 The Foreign Postage Due Covers The Palo Seco Leper Colony Cover The CZ #15a block of 4 mint The 2 known CZ 46c quite nice

All of the Perfin P Covers and the Perfin P Collection
The Special Delivery Mixed Franking Covers
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